

SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS
UPON CURRENT TOPICS—COMPILED EVERY
DAY FOR THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.

American Wastefulness.

From the N. Y. Times.

Americans are playing the part of the prodigal son with their inheritance. The immense resources of the country are wasted, and its splendid capabilities neglected, with heedless recklessness. As a people, we are lavish beyond any other in our personal habits and ways of living. The extravagance of the rich in dress, equipages, and entertainments is noticeable at home, and too often generates abroad into an ostentation more conspicuous than creditable. The well-to-do classes imitate them in spending large sums and wasting much time upon their personal enjoyments. And there are thousands, especially in the cities, whose indulgence in coarse material pleasures is permanently fed at the expense of public order and by violations of law.

It is rightly said that in the mere matter of eating and drinking, a Frenchman would live upon what an American wastes. We are not improved by foreign example, for that of thrift set by the German additions to our population is neutralized by the improvidence of Irish immigrants. Such private profusion of course tolerates and encourages spendthrift habits in those who control the public money. The people find it easier to grumble at heavy taxes than to hold their hands to that strict economy which is no rule for their own private expenditure. Certainly no one expects to find a Cato among aldermen—but one chief reason why their clumsy aping of a Sybarite's ways is laughed at, yet endured, is that the citizens think Sybarism a very nice thing, and are absorbed in pursuing the wealth that may buy its delights for themselves.

Much of this wastefulness is due to the ease with which the means of life may be acquired in this country, seeming to make accumulation needless. If Americans were not born liberal, as most of them are, they would become so through the riches readily drawn from resources that appear inexhaustible. To begin with, we are as a nation among the largest landholders of the world. The whole boundless continent is ours, or we regard it as ours in reversion by manifest destiny. How have we used that part of this splendid area of which we have had possession? It is wise policy to sell the public domain at low prices to actual settlers, since a producing, tax-paying voter is worth more to the Government than an unimproved square league of land. But it is wise to lavish it in donations to the several States, or to give it away without stint to grand speculators in railways, thus building up colossal fortunes in the next generation for the successors of those who have the boldness to ask and the cunning to gain endowments so liberal from Congress? Since what is granted to one cannot be refused to another, will not enterprising men enough be found to persuade the Government that it needs twice as many Pacific Railroads as the four that are now working their way across the continent by the aid of its bonds and its lands?

Before the national domain passes entirely into the hands of private citizens, it would be well that legislation should provide in the public interest against its wasteful management by the future owners. Upon large considerations of national advantage, the forests and streams of the country need that protection which settlers neither can nor will give them. The forests of any region are important not only for their timber, but also in their relations to climate, and in their influence over the regularity and even the existence of its water courses. There are arid plains in Europe which were once thickly wooded and therefore fertile regions, as there are vast expanses in our Western territory which only need trees to make them habitable and productive. Now to the pioneer a tree is a natural enemy, useful merely for fences and firewood, and to be swept off the face of the earth as soon as possible. So too of our rivers and smaller streams. Salmon once abounded in all the Eastern rivers, from which even the shade is now retreating, as the trout are vanishing from the brooks, through the multiplication of mills and of manufactures with their poisonous tribute to the waters. The preservation of such an important article of food as fish is not too small a subject for the care of the Governments in Europe, and is certainly worth some attention from our own before it is too late. A system of laws in the several States for the conservation of the forests, founded on detailed surveys, and supported by uniform and stringent provisions for their protection, and where necessary, the reintroduction of fish and game, would save important sources of national wealth from destruction.

This carelessness in dealing with our original abundance extends to those contributions to the national prosperity which pour in from abroad through the channels of immigration. That steady accession of capital and productive power is too much suffered to run to waste through neglect of judicious distribution. Immigrants present the widest variety of capacity, training, and habits of life. These should be thoroughly utilized by special direction to climates and soils where the most could be made of their respective experience. The hardy cultivators who converge to this port from the far-spreading lands of wheat, the olive and the vine, should not be left unaided to find their way to the regions where they would be most at home and most useful. Such a regulation of this ever-flowing stream of national wealth as to draw the greatest possible benefit from it, would justify the establishment of a separate Bureau at Washington for the diffusion of information abroad, and the proper settlement of those who seek their new homes among us. The practice of the Mormons, who find their account in seeking out the superstitious element in Europe and transplanting it carefully to Deseret, is certainly worth counterworking by imitation, on a greater scale and for higher purposes, by an enlightened Government.

Nor is the development of our hidden springs of wealth conducted with any less wastefulness than attends the use of these open and superficial ones. National and State mining schools, for instance, ought to exist to give accuracy to research and authority to processes in the unfolding and mining mineral riches, thus preventing such wild and immoral enhancements of speculation as those by which petroleum and gold have recently made countless Aladdin's of so many thousands. Our clamorous and costly system of taxation is another instance of wastefulness in financial management. Probably it is at this point that public reform will begin. And as the pressure of taxation, under the best system, must compel private thrift, we may have to thank the war, too, for reviving this positive prudence, which is as essential as more conspicuous virtues to the prosperity of a nation.

The European Situation.

From the N. Y. Herald.

It is not many days since, in commenting on the Peace Congress at Geneva, we stated to our readers that, as the natural and necessary result of that meeting, we might expect very soon to hear of fresh insurrections or assassinations in Europe. Sooner almost than we expected facts have justified our fears. Riots of a serious character have taken place in Manchester and in Dublin, and mob violence has robbed the law of its rightful property. Garibaldi, the king of filibusters, has put himself at the head of his handful of liberators, and, in the vain attempt to get up a second Aspromonte, has landed himself in prison in Alessandria. The Emperor Louis Napoleon, fearful lest the Roman question should enter upon a new phase without his intervention, hurries his troops to the aid of his ally and protégé, King Victor Emmanuel. Bismarck, chuckling over the general confusion, and rejoicing particularly at the prospect of seeing the hands of his great political antagonist tied, bursts out in language of open defiance, telling Germany and the world that there is no power strong enough to hinder the union of the Fatherland, and no power paltry enough to make the attempt. The British police outwitted by a Fenianism which was supposed to be dead; the Italian people, clamorous for Rome, and Garibaldi in prison for attempting to give effect to their wishes; Napoleon threatening another occupation of the Holy City; Bismarck waiting to pronounce the unity of Germany, and the Government of the Czar ready to revolutionize the entire East of Europe—such is the situation at the present moment.

The central difficulty—the focus from which revolution is all but certain to radiate over the continent—Bismarck and Garibaldi—has a second time failed in making Rome the capital of Italy. The hero of a hundred fights, the man to whom Italy and Italy's king owe more than they owe to any other, is in prison; but the Roman question, with which the name of Garibaldi is now intimately and inseparably associated, demands solution as loudly, nay, more loudly than ever. The Italian Government has imprisoned the popular hero; but will the Italian people give their consent either to his continued confinement or to his trial? We have no sympathy with filibusters in any country or in any cause, and Garibaldi, as we have said already, is a filibuster of the purest type; but we do not forget that the cause which Garibaldi represents, and in which he has once again signally miscalculated, is a cause which is popular with all ranks and classes of Italians, from the prince to the peasant. We have never believed that Garibaldi would be allowed to take Rome; but we have not been without good reason for believing that there was collusion between the Garibaldi party and the Government, and that it was the fixed determination of the Government to make use of the insurrectionary movement and make themselves master of Rome. Events have been miscalculated by Garibaldi. They have, also, unless we greatly mistake, been miscalculated by the Government of Italy. We cannot resist the conviction that the Sphinx of the Tuilleries has outwitted them both. It is difficult to believe that Garibaldi would have made the attempt if he had not had some understanding with the Italian Government. It is as difficult to believe that such an understanding could exist, unless there had been a conviction on the part of the Italian Government that Napoleon would not interfere. Napoleon has interfered, and the Roman question presents itself in a new phase; but it is as full of difficulty as ever.

How this question is to be settled, or to what complications it may yet give birth, it is impossible to say. Napoleon has resolved to send troops and war vessels to Italy "to aid the King's Government." Does the King's Government wish such aid? What if under the guise of "aid to the King's Government," we have another French occupation of Rome? Napoleon, it is to be borne in mind, can make mistakes now. What if Italy should resent such aid; and openly and doggedly resist it? What if the alliance which proved so destructive to Austria should be resumed, and more acceptable aid should be found by the Italians in the strong arm of Prussia? What if, in the confusion, South Germany, which is by no means unwilling, should, by a little gentle pressure, be constrained to enter the Northern Union? What if Russia, impatient of further restraint, should march her armies southward and seize the Eastern question at once? If Napoleon, by armed force, interfere in the affairs of Italy, it will, unless we sadly miscalculate, be the grandest mistake of his life.

Napoleon's Intervention in the Roman Question.

From the N. Y. Tribune.

Louis Napoleon has once more averted the blow which threatened to crush the secular power of the Papacy. But for this intervention, the fall of the temporal power would have been certain. A large number of the Papal troops had been gained over for the cause of Garibaldi, and the few volunteers which are in the Papal service would certainly not have withstood long the thousands of volunteers whom Garibaldi, as he has shown on many occasions, can call together at a few days' notice. But for Napoleon's intervention, Garibaldi would never have been arrested, but the Government, which accepted from his hand the two Sicilies and a part of the Papal territory as a present, which last year gave him the command of an entire army corps, which has frequently declared its intention to annex the Papal States, would long ago have sent Garibaldi at the head of an army against Rome, could it have emancipated itself from the influence of France.

France did not confine herself to ordering the arrest of Garibaldi, but, as the Atlantic telegraph announces, at once despatched troops to Rome in order to again garrison her, and prevent an insurrection of the people. This step is in open violation of the treaty concluded in 1864 between France and Italy, by which France consented to withdraw her troops if Italy would prevent an invasion of the Papal territory. Italy has been compelled to strictly execute her part of the treaty, while France has never paid to it the least respect on her part. The French Government has of late repeatedly intimated that any new danger to the city of Rome would at once lead to a return of the French troops. Only a few weeks ago a French general reviewed the French volunteers at Rome, telling them that they were still regarded as French troops, and exhorting them to defend the Papal territory. Thus Louis Napoleon continues to act in open violation of the very principle which he, first of the monarchs of Europe, endeavored to introduce into European politics. Whenever great complications arose which it seemed France could make use of for her aggrandizement, Napoleon made himself the champion of the national aspirations. He did not satisfy the leaders of the great Liberal party, but it was readily recognized that he proclaimed a

principle which was much more profitable to the progress of Liberalism than the principles professed by the statesmen of the old school. But while aspiring at the honor of being called a Liberal, he has hardly missed an occasion to violate his own principles. We need not dwell at length on his expedition against the Mexican Republic, or on the long occupation of the city of Rome by French troops, or his desire stealthily to obtain territory from Prussia. All these moves are still in the remembrance of our readers.

In Italy, Napoleon has for the present carried his point; Garibaldi is a prisoner, his volunteers have suppressed, a riot in Florence has been promptly dispersed. But this is not the end of the Garibaldian movement. The Italian people smart under the affront which France has offered to them. They only need a Bismarck to destroy their diabolical servitude to France; and the greater the arrogant claims of France are, the sooner the Italian people will learn to spurn them.

Personal Representation.

From the N. Y. Independent.

It is not a gratifying result of the workings of our republican institutions in this country, that almost every change which has been made in their constitutional arrangements has been for the worse. We mean in the States; for the changes in the National Constitution have been such as restored it to the condition in which its framers supposed they had left it, or to which they hoped it would soon be brought by the necessary course of events. But in the States the alterations in the fundamental laws have been, in almost every instance, mischievous. The healthy operation of republican institutions should place at the head of affairs, and in the legislative and judicial posts, the men the most eminent for their talents, experience, and peculiar training for such responsibilities. And in the earlier days of our history, and up to a comparatively recent date, this was measurably the case.

There were violent party divisions, and elections were carried on with great acrimony; but the men elected were, as a general thing, the best that the parties afforded. All that is necessary to prove this fact is to glance at the list of the governors, judges, senators, and assemblymen of this State fifty years ago, and for the holding of the places within the last twenty. Without meaning any reflection on many very respectable men who have held those offices of later years, it will not be generally denied that they can hardly be put in the same category with the two Clintons, John Jay, Morgan Lewis, and Daniel D. Tompkins; with Kent, Ambrose Spencer, Brochtholp Livingston, and Egbert Benson; or with the eminent men who used to make the Senate and Assembly of New York dignified and distinguished deliberative bodies.

It is certainly a singular anomaly that, as the country grows older, the men who manage its affairs grow smaller. But it is not so strange as it seems; for it grows out of the conventions of later times, which have put the nomination of candidates into the hands of small men (or worse than small), who naturally so manage matters as to answer the purposes of themselves and their class. The smallness of the electoral districts has had a marked effect in forcing the growth of small men. When the districts were larger, it was essential that the candidates should be men of some mark, of whom everybody in an extensive district should have heard at least, and the great mass of voters never dreamed of reaching those who heighs themselves. By the subdivision of the constituency, little men look larger; and by a well-understood arrangement as many of them are to enjoy the legislative offices, in due rotation, as the limitations of human life will allow. This constant succession of insignificant men, invested with fearful powers for good and evil, creates the materials for the bribery and corruption which threaten to eat out the vitals of the State. They never heard of before, they pocket what they can get, they disappear to make way for a fresh supply of hungry mediocrity, and are heard of no more. Their temptation is great just in proportion to their obscurity. The remedy is so to arrange matters that none but men with characters to lose shall be sent to make laws for the State. The corruption which we all lament and deprecate is limited mainly to the larger branch of the Legislature, and is never even suspected as to the Executive. Why is this? Because the Senators have larger constituencies, and the Governor the whole State for his; so that they are necessarily men of established character, and to whom the temptations of vulgar bribery are of little account when weighed with what they must lose by yielding to them.

It is an encouraging circumstance that thinking men are setting themselves seriously to work to devise some way of escape from the mischief of caucus nominations, and the ills that flow from them. Prominent among them are the gentlemen who now constitute the Personal Representation Society, the object of which is to reform the present system by making legislation the direct expression of the actual opinion of the majority of the voters, by giving to every voter a substantial weight in deciding what shall be. A certain number of votes is to be necessary to elect a legislator. Every voter votes for whom he pleases within the domain apportioned to be represented. If the candidate have the necessary number of votes to make up the qualification, he is chosen. If he fall short, then he, with the other unsuccessful candidates, may meet and transfer the votes given to him to any one of the elected members, or complete with them the qualification of one of their own number. Thus every quota (say of two thousand) shall have a representative, if the people choose to fill it up; and every voter is represented either directly by the election of the candidate he prefers, or by some one whom that candidate in whom he is supposed to place entire confidence, selects among the other defeated candidates to represent him. A vote is considered, as indeed it is, a power of attorney, authorizing the attorney to act for the principal; and, by this plan, the attorney is authorized to substitute in his place another whom he believes will properly represent the principal. Thus every voter who pleases to exercise his right of appointing an attorney is represented by some one who, it is to be supposed, will, as a general thing, act as he would were he in the legislature himself. The plan of which there is the outline is formed of one who has received the weighty approval of John Stuart Mill, and is certainly deserving of serious consideration. We must take more time for consideration before committing ourselves to it; but it seems to increase the likelihood of a higher order of men being placed in power than the present average. And this is of the hope of the State and the nation; for any scheme that has not this effect will only drive away one swarm of bloodsuckers to make way for another.

But as this change, if it should be accepted at last, can hardly be hoped for at this time, the instant necessity might be met by enlarging the districts for the legislators of both branches, by electing the higher judges by general ticket, and by having the lower ones

appointed by the Governor. Justice lies at the root of civil society, and any Commonwealth that cannot devise a way of preventing the judges of even a single district from being appointed by the criminal classes with which they have to deal, lacks the very first element of a true self-government. We believe that the State has vitality enough to throw off the distempers which weaken and deform her; but it can be only by the use of means. No miracle will be worked in her favor. And it behooves every good citizen to help in the cure, as he certainly suffers by the disease, and may perish by it. She has suffered sorely from political quackery, and can only be restored to normal strength and beauty by finding out and obeying the divine laws of political health.

McCulloch and the Money Speculation.

From the N. Y. Herald.

Mr. McCulloch and the money speculators are all the time gambling with the funds which the country needs, and thus withholding them from the legitimate channels of trade. The Secretary keeps locked up in the Treasury constantly two hundred millions and upwards, reckoning the gold at currency value; for what other purpose than gambling operations, or to help the money gamblers of this city and the national banks, no one can conceive. The revenue invariably comes in as fast or faster than the demands upon the Treasury for it. If the whole two hundred millions, or thereabout, were used to-morrow in buying up the debt, and the Treasury left empty, there would be a surplus again within a month. Why, then, is this vast sum kept in the vaults and out of circulation? It is worth twenty to sixty millions a year in interest, and that amount would be saved to the country by applying it to the purchase of the interest-bearing debt. Why should these twelve to sixteen millions a year be lost to the people and country? Mr. McCulloch has not had skill enough to bring down the premium on gold by keeping an immense reserve. On the contrary, it has gone up, in spite of his hundred millions of gold reserve. But if he had succeeded in this there would be no reason to hold fifty, sixty, or seventy millions of gold reserve. Such miserable financial mismanagement serves only the national bank speculators and the money speculators of the country, while it robs the country of the interest on two hundred millions, and prevents the circulation of this money in the channels of trade.

The Secretary of the Treasury is doing just the same as the bankers and other speculators in money are doing. He belongs to that class, and has no ideas of finance above theirs. They hold immense sums of money, which also is needed by the country for legitimate business, for no other purpose than gambling. Millions upon millions are used for this daily and hourly, without yielding anything or producing any other result than to nominally fill Mr. Smith's pocket and to empty Mr. Jones' to-day, and to empty Mr. Smith's and fill Mr. Jones' to-morrow. This gambling produces no wealth, and only keeps up an everlasting see-saw of ups and downs among the money gamblers themselves. It is not a whit better than gambling at the faro table, and is equally as demoralizing to the individuals engaged in it. But the greatest evil is withholding the vast sum thus used from the proper channels of trade. There is plenty of money in the country, but there is great need of it throughout the localities removed from money-centers. Had we twice as much, it would be useless for purposes of production and trade in general as long as the banks and other money speculators and gamblers should hold it for the same object they do now. There is not a particle of difference between the conduct of Mr. McCulloch and that of these money gamblers. They are both demoralizing the country and ruining its best interests. They are both checking production and trade while there are abundant means to stimulate and increase them. Such a violation of every sound principle of finance and business can only end disastrously.

Universal Utopia.

From the N. Y. World.

The readers of newspapers in both hemispheres must have been struck with the epidemic of congresses, conferences, and conventions, religious, social, and political, that have been held this year—especially in Europe. Of these, the first of note was the great council of bishops assembled at Rome, which has since been duplicated by the Pan-Anglican Council of Protestant Episcopal Bishops now in session in Lambeth Palace. The Workingmen's Congress, at Chicago, has been followed by the International Labor Congress at Lausanne. The British Association for the Advancement of Science has met at Dundee, and has indulged in what the London Review irreverently calls its "usual semi-scientific gabble." The American Social Science Congress, which met in one of the quietest of Cooper Institute, Fourth of July afternoon, not having succeeded in revolutionizing society and introducing a general belief in Fourierism, has turned the work over to a Social Science Convention, international, of course, which is to be held in England some time this autumn. There are also to be in Great Britain, shortly, an International Law Convention, and a Sanitary Convention. Smaller convocations, like that of the Calvinists at Amsterdam, and the conference of Catholics at Innsbruck, have also excited monetary attention. Last of all (at present) we have been called upon to report the proceedings of the Peace Congress at Geneva.

The promptings for some of these assemblies have been, first, the Paris Exposition, which gave delegates an opportunity to kill two birds with one stone—to see the fine things shown in Paris, and to hear the fine things said in "our" convention; and, second, the almost universal feeling among certain classes of uneasiness and unrest, occasioned in this country, by causes too obvious to need rehearsal, and in Europe by the unsettled affairs between certain Governments, and more, perhaps, by the prospect of more complications sure to come.

But strictly religious councils, especially those at Rome and in England, have their special objects, of which we say nothing now; but the mass of the other conventions and congresses, in spite of their formidable names, and show of delegates, and gigantic "objects," and immense intentions, are, after all, only on a larger scale, so many Brick Lane Branch Associations, the main business of which, according to the elder Waller, was to "pass resolutions and vote supplies." And of all these associations, none has presented a more ludicrous spectacle than the Peace Convention, which sat, and sat, and sat, on a horse's nest, at Geneva. This is to be regretted, because the sympathies of good men everywhere are, or ought to be, with the "lovers of peace." But the mass of the peace men who met in Geneva were men of war. A fit subject for one of the funniest of

Old Rye Whiskies.
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TERMS.

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present date.
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Punch's cartoons would be Garibaldi shouting "Peace, universal peace!" to the Geneva conventionists, and pointing his drawn sword towards Rome. The delegates were largely those discontents who gather from all quarters of Europe and rise to the surface only when there is a prospect of a storm. The whole world has laughed at the want of connection between Napoleon's celebrated "The Empire is peace" and the events that almost immediately followed. The proceedings of the Peace Congress show even less consistency. On the first day of the meeting of these peace men there was a row among themselves. Then followed a proposition to inaugurate an era of universal peace by a revival of "the principles" of 1848, by an immediate march upon Rome, to be followed by a general and vigorous war against the despotisms of Europe and the whole world. The proceedings throughout are characterized by the reports as tumultuous. On the second day of the session there was another row; then there was a conflict with the inhabitants of Geneva; more contentions in the Convention, the radical "Reds" evidently getting the better of the conservative "Blues;" renewed disturbances; and the report records the lamentable fact that "the Congress separated without results."

To be sure, nobody was hurt; but, as Sheridan said, when a careless servant throw down a pile of dinner-plates, and apologized because none of them were broken—"Was all this fuss then made for nothing?" Perhaps, and perhaps not. Only the Peace Congress adds one more to the mass of congresses and conferences, industrial and political, which have assembled with the avowed intention of establishing an universal Utopia, and have only passed resolutions and voted supplies.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR—
UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

On the petition of MAXHEW STEWART, of Philadelphia, Pa., praying for the extension of a patent granted to him the 30th day of January, 1864, for an improvement in the "Patent of the day" of seven years from the expiration of said patent, which takes place on the 30th day of January, 1868.

It is ordered that the said petition be heard at the Patent Office on MONDAY, the 10th day of December, 1867, at 12 o'clock M.; and all persons are notified to appear and show cause, if any they have, why said petition ought not to be granted.

Persons opposing the extension are required to file in the Patent Office their objections, specially set forth in writing, at least twenty days before the day of hearing; and their arguments, if any, within ten days after filing the testimony.

Depositions and other papers, relied upon as testimony, must be filed in the office twenty days before the day of hearing; the arguments, if any, within ten days after filing the testimony.

Ordered, also, that this notice be published in the "Republican" and the "Intelligencer," Washington, D. C., and in THE EVENING TELEGRAPH, Philadelphia, Pa., once a week for three successive weeks; the first of said publications to be at least sixty days previous to the day of hearing.

F. C. THEAKER,
Commissioner of Patents.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR—

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

On the petition of JEROME S. COOK, of Philadelphia, Pa., praying for the extension of a patent granted to him the 10th day of December, 1864, for an improvement in Hinge for Locks, Covers, for seven years from the expiration of said patent, which takes place on the 10th day of December, 1868.

It is ordered that the said petition be heard at the Patent Office on MONDAY, the 10th day of November, 1867, at 12 o'clock M.; and all persons are notified to appear and show cause, if any they have, why said petition ought not to be granted.

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Commissioner of Patents.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR—

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

On the petition of LUCIAN B. FLANDERS, of Philadelphia, Pa., praying for the extension of a patent granted to him the 10th day of December, 1864, for an improvement in Repeating Gun upon Railroad Tracks, for seven years from the expiration of said patent, which takes place on the 10th day of December, 1868.

It is ordered that the said petition be heard at the Patent Office on MONDAY, the 10th day of November, 1867, at 12 o'clock M.; and all persons are notified to appear and show cause, if any they have, why said petition ought not to be granted.

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